

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 REYKJA 00585 281433Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 DHA-02 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 IO-13 EB-08 OES-06
DLOS-09 COME-00 OMB-01 /104 W
-----290211Z 029104 /63

R 281227Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7234
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
COMICEDEFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 0585

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, IC, UR
SUBJECT: FISH CONSERVATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN ICELAND AND USSR

REF: A) REYKJAVIK 0558; (B) EC BRUSSELS 4203

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED
1. DURING TWO DAY VISIT TO ICELAND, SOVIET MINISTER OF
FISHERIES ALEKSANDR ISHKOV SIGNED AGREEMENT WITH ICELANDIC
FOREIGN MINISTER EINAR AUGSTSSON AND FISHERIES MINISTER
MATTHIAS BJARNASON DEALING WITH COOPERATION BETWEEN USSR
AND ICELAND ON FISH CONSERVATION AND OCEAN RESEARCH. AGREE-
MENT ALSO IMVLUDED PROVISION CONCERNING RECIPROCAL RECOG-
NITION OF 200 MILES LIMITS ON FISHERIES JURISDICTIONS.
ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPER ACCOUNT, AGUSTSSON STATED THAT
AGREEMENT HAS
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BEEN PUT BEFORE FOREIGN RELATIONS COM-
MITTEE OF ALTHING (ICELANDIC PARLIAMENT) AND HAD BEEN
APPROVED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL ICELANDIC POLITICAL
PARTIES.

2. EMBASSY IS FORWARDIMG COPY OF ICELANDIC TEXT OX
AGGEEMENT TO SECSTATE EUR/NE TOGETHER WITH UNOFFICIAL

TRANSLATION. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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3. COMMENT: MFA OFFICIAL INFORMED EMBASSY THAT AGREEMENT IS REALLY EMPTY SHELL AND TOTALLY MEANINGLESS. SOVIETS HAVE COOPERATED WITH NORDICS FOR YEARS ON OCEAN RESEARCH, SO AGREEMENT ADDS NOTHING NEW IN THAT AREA. CONSERVATION CLAUSE IS ALSO SIMPLY PRO FORMA AND WITHOUT ANY SUBSTANCE. OFFICIAL ALSO NOTED THAT TRIP TO ICELAND WAS TO LARGE EXTENT COVER UP FOR ISHKOV'S PRESENCE IN BRUSSELS DURING TIME WHEN SOVIET OFFICIALS WERE TALKING WITH EEV OFFICIALS ABOUT FISHING MATTERS(REF A) MFA OFFICIALS STATED THAT ISHKOV HAD BEEN ASKED IF HIS PRESENCE IN BRUSSELS HAD IN ANY WAY IMPLIED ADDITIONAL USSR ACCEPTANCE OF EEC AS SPOKESMAN FOR MEMBER MATIONS. ISHKOV REPORTEDLY REPLIED THAT ONLY REASON FOR HIS BEING IN BRUSSELS WAS STOPOVER ON HIS JOURNEY TO ICELAND.

4. MFA OFFICIAL ALSO NOTED THAT SOVIETS WERE ALWAYS TRYING TO GET ICELAND TO SIGN "MEANINGLESS" AGREEMENTS (SEE REF A). SOVIETS HAD BEEN TRYING TO HAVE FISHERIES AGREEMENT WITH ICELAND FOR YEARS AND HAD PROPOSED SEVERAL MORE SUBSTANTIVE DOCUMENTS, ALL OF WHICH WERE TURNED DOWN BY GOI. APRIL 25 AGREEMENT WAS COMPLETELY WATERED DOWN VERSION OF EARLIER APPROACH; ICELANDERS CONSIDERED IT HARMLESS SO THEY SIGNED IT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TREATY SIGNATURE, CONSERVATION, SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, RESEARCH, FISHING AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977REYKJA00585
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770149-0565
Format: TEL
From: REYKJAVIK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977049/aaaaaaher.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 046179aa-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 REYKJAVIK 558, 77 EC BRUSSELS 4203
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2903062
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FISH CONSERVATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN ICELAND AND USSR
TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, IC, UR, (ISHDOV, ALEKSANDR), (AUGSTSSON, EINAR), (BJARNASON, MATTHIAS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/046179aa-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009